

WHITE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2005

A special meeting of the White County Board begun and holden this 8th day of February 2005 in the Courtroom of the White County Courthouse in the City of Carmi.

Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Dozier called the roll with Nelson, Ray, Mitchell, Trout and Wooten all present.

Chairman Wooten asked the Board if they had received a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting and were there any additions, changes, or deletions to those minutes. Mr. Ray made a motion that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be waived and the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as proposed in writing. Motion seconded by Nelson. Motion carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten asked for a motion to pay all current bills. Mr. Ray made a motion to pay all current bills, seconded by Mitchell. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten recognized Mr. & Mrs. Richard Curd in the audience. The Curd's were representing the White County Farm Bureau.

Chairman Wooten introduced Master Sgt. J.J. Wittenborn with Illinois State Police Drug Task Force. Mr. Wittenborn stated that he was at the meeting to keep the County Board informed of the activities of the Drug Task Force. Master Sgt. Wittenborn stated that the biggest concern with the task force was still meth. Master Sgt. Wittenborn stated that the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force or Zone #7 ran from Illinois Interstate 70 South, and there were a total of 31 counties. He stated that in 2003, 393 meth labs had been seized, 2004 there were 396. Master Sgt. Wittenborn stated in White County in 2001 there were 7 labs seized, 2002 a total of 17, 2003 a total of 27 and in 2004 the total declined to 24. Sgt. Wittenborn stated that the Drug Task Force has been working hand in hand with Federal agents on investigations and trying to indict the worst of the worst, which are the manufactures or cookers. Sgt. Wittenborn stated that there had been 51 federal indictments handed down and 31 of those since July 1, 2004. Master Sgt. Wittenborn stated that 20 indictments in Wayne County had yielded approximately 140 kilos of meth. And another investigation in Gallatin County, Southern White County and Southwestern Indiana had produced 28 Federal indictments and yielded between 80 and 100 kilos of meth. Sgt. Wittenborn stated that the Federal agents are having a 96% success rate in the individuals pleading guilty to the manufacture of meth. He asked the Board if they had any questions. The Board members thanked him for the report.

Mr. Charles Heflin, Director of the White County Ambulance Service, stated that he had submitted a written report, which also included a proposal from Edwards County. Chairman Wooten asked the Board to study the proposal and it would be addressed at the March meeting.

Chairman Wooten stated that Sheriff Maier was out of town but he had submitted his report to the Board. Chairman Wooten stated that the expense for the month was \$82,445.56 in the jail and the income was \$125,028. Chairman Wooten stated that Jefferson County had paid White County in full for prisoner keep.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next meeting of 9-1-1 would be held on Monday, February 21, 2005 in the Courtroom at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Wooten introduced Mike Young who was filling in for David Hammell the White County ESDA Director. Mr. Young stated that there was a meeting held today between IEMA, FEMA and representatives from the County, Cities, Townships, Levee Districts etc. to start assessing the damage caused by the recent flooding. Mr. Young explained that it is a complicated formula that the State and Federal Governments use to establish the dollar amount per capita in damage the counties have received, because Cook County and Chicago are part of that equation. Mr. Young stated that the levee that gave way around Calvin is estimated at one million dollars to repair. The City of Grayville has considerable damage to its infrastructure and they are aware of at least 13 homes that the flood water has ruined. The flood also entered 10 to 15 cabins on Old River and the flood has created problems with silt in the Hawthorne Drainage District and Granny Tweedle Levee District. Mr. Young explained that in some of the areas of White County there were still flood water and the total damage could not be assessed. Mr. Young urged individuals whose homes had been damaged by flooding to contact him and also for all the townships and municipalities to examine their infrastructure for possible damage once

all the floodwaters have receded. Mr. Ray asked Mr. Young if the area is declared a disaster area from flooding would the monies received be in the form of low interest loans or grants. Mr. Young explained they were just in the beginning stages of discovery and that it was impossible to tell what would become available. Mr. Young explained that if White County was declared a disaster it could be a combination of low interest loans and grant monies. Mr. Young warned the Board that this study was in the very beginning stages and everyone needed to be diligent in reporting damage. Mr. Young stated that White County was declared a disaster area from the snowfall in December and that was over six weeks ago and IEMA and FEMA are just now in position to start providing assistance to those agencies that were overburdened with snow removal. Mr. Young asked the Board who was in charge of White County's flood plain compliance. Chairman Wooten stated that the Supervisor of Assessments was in charge of the unincorporated areas of White County. Mr. Young stated that IEMA and FEMA would probably be contacting that office because they had found several things that were not in compliance with White County's current ordinance. The Board thanked Mr. Young for his update.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider fuel bids for the Highway Department. Mr. Bosaw presented one bid from Wabash Valley to the Board. Chairman Wooten stated that Wabash Valley had proposed several options and he would suggest that the Board consider accepting the open price of 1.555 for unleaded gasoline with ethanol, the firm bid for off road diesel with 5% soy in the amount of \$1.485 and the firm bid for on road diesel with 5% soy in the amount of \$1.662. Mr. Wooten stated that the gasoline prices were the ones fluctuating and that diesel had stayed around the same price. Mr. Ray stated that he would make Mr. Wooten's suggestion in the form of a motion and seconded by Trout. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Chairman Wooten introduced Ms. Stacey Rigg of Cra-Wa-La Volunteers in Probation Inc. Ms. Rigg explained that Cra-Wa-La had received a \$216,000.00 grant for mentoring of children with incarcerated parents. Ms. Rigg stated that the parent of the child must give permission. She informed the Board that Cra-Wa-La was looking for mentors in White County and also locations to have meetings, transportation for the children. Ms. Rigg stated that usually children of offenders become offenders themselves later in life and this grant is being used to break that cycle. Ms. Rigg stated that she had given each Board member a pamphlet and a card with her phone number so that if any one was interested in becoming a mentor they could get in touch with her. Mr. Ray asked if the mentors would be paid and she responded it was strictly volunteer position. Ms. Rigg stated that a mentor would have to go through a background check and would have to have some training. Ms. Rigg stated that they would probably be hiring someone in the White County area to coordinate this program. The Board thanked Ms. Rigg and Nancy Mitchell asked her to get in touch with Phil Mitchell at the Baptist Children's Home, because he has a jail ministry and may be able to provide referrals to them.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider renewing the agreement between Insurance Audit and Inspection and White County. Insurance Audit and Inspection provides consulting services on workman's compensation, auto liability, liability, inland marine and building and contents insurance. The contract would run from May 2005 to May 2006 and would cost \$2,981.00. Mr. Nelson made a motion to renew the consulting service contract, seconded by Ray. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Clerk Dozier stated that the Board had given permission to the Sheriff to advertise for bid for a new van for the City/County Jail. Clerk Dozier stated that the only bid that was received was from Rice Motor Comp any in the amount of \$22,500.00 for a 15-passenger van. Mr. Wooten stated that the City/County Jail Budget had been approved with around \$24,000.00 for a vehicle and that was under budget. Clerk Dozier stated that the van had been ordered.

Chairman Wooten stated that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 in the Courtroom.

Mrs. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trout. Motion carried 5-0 on roll call vote.